

IN THE CLAIMS:

Entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested in order to place the present Application in condition for allowance:

10. (currently amended) An assembly method for assembling a heat-resistant assembly having a boiler tube assembly formed with boiler tubes and a connecting flat rib, a heat-resistant block conformed to the contours of said boiler tubes and a surface of said connecting flat rib, and an interlocking mechanism projecting from the surface of the rib toward the block and indentations on the surface of the block into which the interlocking mechanism engage, comprising the steps of:

applying mortar to said tube assembly, including said interlocking mechanism, and said heat-resistant block, including said indentations, separately prior to assembling said tube assembly and said heat-resistant block; and

assembling said tube assembly and said heat-resistant block together, wherein the indentations on the block which have been filled with mortar are brought in contact with the interlocking mechanism on the tube assembly, so that the mortar causes the two surfaces to adhere to one another.

11. (previously presented) An assembly method for assembling a heat-resistant assembly according to claim 10, wherein in the applying mortar step, said mortar is applied in the depression between said boiler tubes and said connecting flat rib on said tube assembly, and in the depressions in the curved interior surfaces on said heat-resistant block facing said tube assembly.

12. (previously presented -- allowed) An assembly method for assembling a heat-resistant assembly having a boiler tube assembly formed with boiler tubes and a connecting flat rib, a heat-resistant block conformed to the contours of said boiler tubes and ~~the~~ a surface of said connecting flat rib, a catch on an arm which protrudes from the surface of said connecting flat rib toward said heat-resistant block, and an indentation on said heat-resistant block into which said catch on said arm interlockingly engages to attach or release said heat-resistant block on said boiler tubes, comprising the steps of:

applying mortar to said connecting flat rib, wherein the thickness of mortar which has been applied to said connecting flat rib connecting the boiler tubes is controlled by removing excess mortar with a scraper using the exterior surface of said boiler tubes as a guide; and

applying mortar to the curved indentations, wherein the thickness of mortar which has been applied between the curved indentations on said heat-resistant block facing said boiler tubes is controlled by removing excess mortar with a scraper using a flat straight surface of said block as a guide; and

adhering said tube assembly to said block by cementing, in which said indentations on said block which have been filled with mortar are brought in contact with said catch on said tube assembly so that the mortar causes the two surfaces to adhere to each other and said tube assembly and the block are cemented to each other by the mortar.